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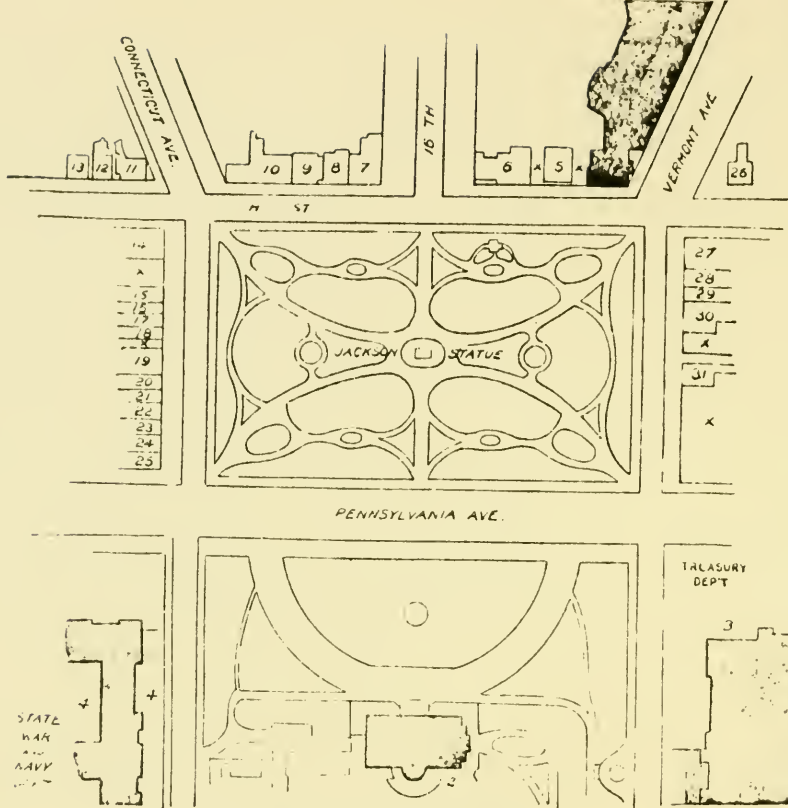


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A
HISTORIC CORNER
IN A
HISTORIC CITY.

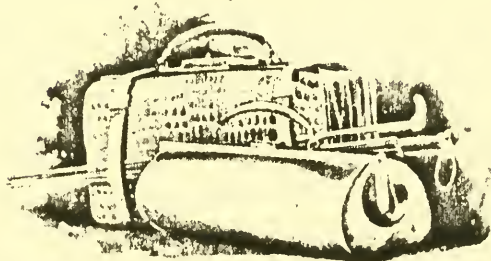


KEY TO DIAGRAM.

1. Arlington Hotel.
2. White House.
3. Treasury Department.
4. State, War and Navy Departments.
5. Lord Ashburton; Sir Bulwer Lytton.
6. "The Court Church"—St. John's.
7. John Hay, historian and poet.
8. Henry Adams, author.
9. Thomas Ritchie; John Slidell.
10. Daniel Webster; William W. Corcoran.
11. Admiral Shubrick, and others.
12. Judge Bancroft Davis.
13. George Bancroft.
14. Commodore Decatur; Henry Clay; Martin Van Buren.
15. William L. Scott, M. C.
16. C. C. Glover.
17. George F. Appleby.
18. Major-Gen. Parke.
19. Washington McLean, *Cincinnati Enquirer*; Vice-President Schuyler Colfax, and others.
20. Mrs. James Blair.
21. Senator Gorman.
22. Admiral Alden; Major Henry R. Rathbone; Senator Dolph.
23. Mrs. Green.
24. Col. W. H. Philip.
25. Peter Parker, Minister to China; William E. Curtis, Chief of All-Americas bureau.
26. Commodore Morris.
27. James Madison; Mrs. Madison; Commodore Wilkes; Gen. McClellan; Cosmos Club.
28. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury.
29. Col. Robert G. Ingersoll; Senator Fenton.
30. Admiral Paulding; Senator Don Cameron.
31. Henry Clay; John C. Calhoun; Washington Club; William H. Seward; James G. Blaine.

A
HISTORIC CORNER

IN
A HISTORIC CITY.
Theophilus E. Roessle



NEW YORK ENGRAVING & PRINTING CO.,
NEW YORK.

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WASHINGTONIANA

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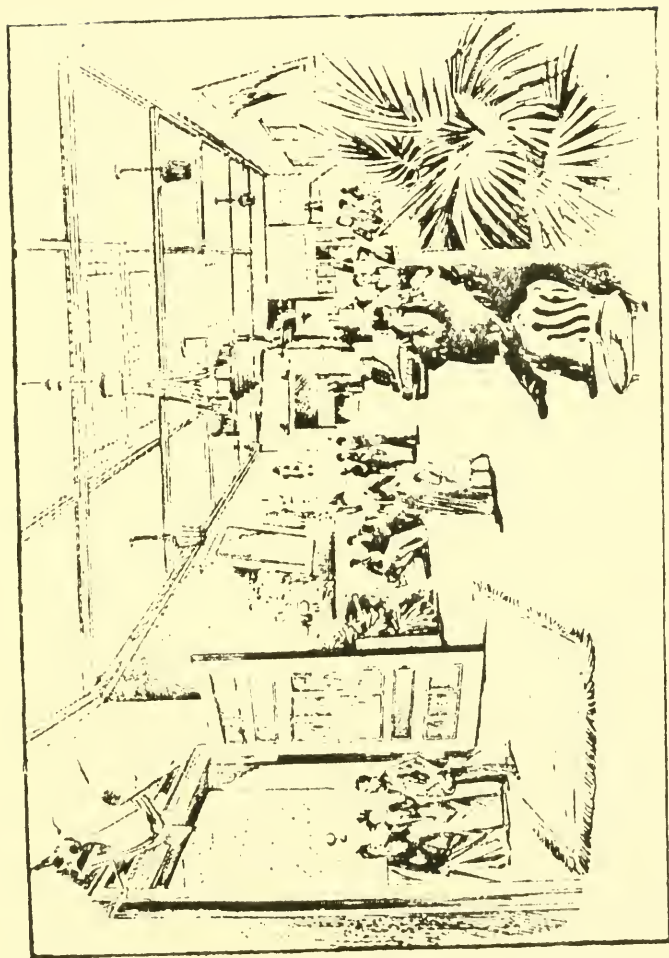
LAFAYETTE PARK.



ALTHOUGH but a century old, the small green parallelogram between the White House and the Arlington Hotel has undeniably the most interesting history of any locality in the United States. At the time of the Revolution it was an insignificant part of David Burns's farm, but in 1790, when President Washington selected the site for the Executive Mansion, he defined the boundaries of Lafayette Park opposite—even thus early giving to it the name of his illustrious friend. Long before the British soldiers tramped over it on their way to burn the White House in 1814, the political grandees of the land had begun to build their homes around this little park, and in every succeeding decade the most famous leaders in Cabinet and Senate, in war and diplomacy, have ranged themselves upon its border.

The accompanying plan (Frontispiece) conveys some idea of its distinction in recording the names of the personages who reside or who have resided around the three available sides of this verdant and beautiful atrium of the White House.

Where the main body of the Arlington Hotel now stands there were three stately residences. One was occupied by William L. Marcy, Secretary of War under President Polk and Secretary of State under President Pierce, and when he retired he was succeeded in this and the adjoining house by the Secretary of State under Buchanan, Lewis Cass, who, like Marcy, had previously held the war portfolio. In the third mansion, but recently superseded by the noble extension of the hotel up Vermont Avenue, dwelt Reverdy Johnson, minister to England, and there Presidents Buchanan and Harrison were entertained prior to their inauguration, and there Patti, Henry Irving, President Diaz of Mexico, King Kalakaua, Dom Pedro and Boulanger found that luxurious seclusion which sovereigns and artists seek.



IN THE HOTEL PARLOR.

The H-street front of the hotel consists of a union of the former residences of Charles Sumner and Senator Pomeroy, the windows looking directly upon the White House. President Cleveland went from these rooms to his inauguration.

The great double mansion adjoining, on H street, was built by Matthew St. Clair Clarke, long Clerk of the House of Representatives, and afterwards it became the home of the British legation. Here lived Sir Bulwer Lytton and his not less famous son and secretary, "Owen Meredith," now Lord Lytton, who wrote here his most celebrated poem, "Lucile." In later years the house was occupied by Lord Ashburton, who, with Daniel Webster assisted by Featherstonhaugh drafted the "Ashburton treaty" which defined our Canadian boundary. A still later occupant was John Nelson, Attorney General in Tyler's Cabinet.

On the corner of Sixteenth street is St. John's Episcopal church—a famous landmark. It was

built after the war of 1812 with the earnest encouragement of President Madison, and for nearly two generations it was the "Court Church,"--attended by every president before Lincoln. Arthur was also among its parishioners.

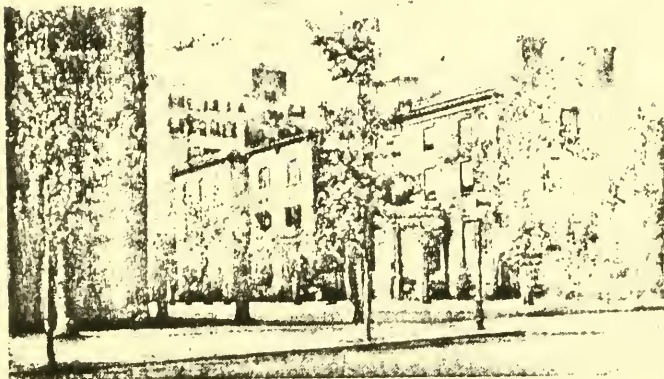
Across Sixteenth street are two well-known productive authors, Col. John Hay, Lincoln's secretary, and his immediate neighbor, Henry Adams, grandson of John Quincy Adams. In the next house long lived Senator Slidell before he was confederate Ambassador to France; its present owner is Walter A. Wood, a well known inventor and manufacturer.



DANIEL WEBSTER'S HOUSE.

The corner house immediately adjoining that of Slidell was owned and occupied by Daniel Webster during the whole period when he was Secretary of State, and it afterwards became the home of the philanthropist, William Corcoran, who, during the Civil War, rented it to M. Montholon, the French minister to this Capital.

On the opposite corner, as shown in frontispiece, is the residence of Admiral Shubrick, and



THE BANCROFT HOUSE.

contiguous to it the present homes of Judge Bancroft Davis, diplomat, and the distinguished historian, George Bancroft.

Facing the northwest corner of Lafayette Park, and diagonally opposite to the residence of Daniel Webster, is the antique, solid double house which Commodore Decatur built after the war of 1812 and in which he died in 1820, on returning from his duel at Bladensburg. After Decatur's death, the house was successively occupied by Henry Clay ; Martin Van Buren, Vice-President ; Edward Livingston, Jackson's Secretary of State ; George M. Dallas, Vice-President ; Senator Judah P. Benjamin, afterwards Attorney-General, Secretary of War and Secretary of State of the Confederacy ; and finally Gen. Beale, whose guest Gen. Grant has been for weeks at a time. Van Buren had the window cut in the south wall of this house in order that he might see the signals displayed by Jackson from the White House.

Almost all of the other eleven houses on the west side of the park have been occupied by distinguished officials ; the one which is now the winter home of Washington McLean, of the

Cincinnati Enquirer, having successively sheltered the families of Secretary Levi Woodbury, of Van Buren's Cabinet ; Secretary John C. Spencer, of Tyler's Cabinet ; Gen. Sickles, M. C., and Vice-President Colfax.



THE VAN BUREN-DECATUR HOUSE.

Directly opposite Arlington, across Vermont Avenue, is the small two-story house, now a nest of business offices, where for many years lived that fighting officer, Commodore Morris, who commanded the Pensacola before New Orleans, showing the same energy that his grandfather.

Robert Morris, showed, when as Washington's finance officer, he made the Revolution a success.

In the house numbered 19 on the Frontispiece have dwelt several distinguished people. There lived for years Major Rathbone and his wife, who sat in the theatre box by Abraham Lincoln's side when he was slain, and whose subsequent life is too sad to be recalled.

Diagonally opposite the Arlington, is the home of the Cosmos, the largest scientific club in the world, in the great mastic building erected by James Madison, when, in 1801, he came to Washington and served as Jefferson's Secretary of State till he was elected President. Thither, twenty years later, "Dolly" Madison returned, after her husband's death, and there for fifteen years she held court and dispensed, during the remainder of a sunny life, a gracious hospitality. It afterwards became the residence of Admiral Wilkes, when Slidell, whom he was soon to take off a British ship on the high seas, lived within a stone's throw.

In the next two houses have dwelt Secretary Windom, Senator Fenton and Col. Robert G. Ingersoll; and in the next below, Admiral Paulding, a son of that obstinate soldier, John Paulding, who captured Major André. The



ON THE EAST SIDE OF LAFAYETTE PARK.

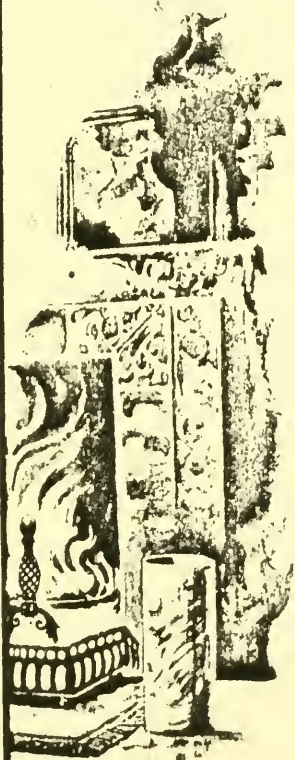
house was built by Ogle Taylor and is now owned and occupied by Senator Don Cameron.

The only remaining house on the square is of all the most famous. It was originally the elite boarding-house of Washington, and numbered among its guests John C. Calhoun, when he was

Jackson's Secretary of War and Vice-President, and Henry Clay, when he was Adams's Secretary of State ; then it became the property of the celebrated Washington Club, and the place where assembled the rich and influential young men of the Capital ; Sickles and Key were both members,

and the tragedy which associates their names took place in front of its door ; later it became the War residence of Secretary Seward, and there the deadly assault was made upon him by the assassin, Payne ; lastly, it has been renovated for the home of James G. Blaine, the third Secretary of State who has dwelt within its walls and the seventh who has lived upon the park

This remarkable square might properly be christened Cabinet Park, for around it have lived, at different times, members of the official families of seventeen Presidents.



It is fit that in this historic heart of the Continent—this rendezvous of the masterful men of the Republic—there should be a house of entertainment of corresponding magnitude and excellence. For even the loftiest statesmanship is impotent to accomplish results without the support of an adequate cuisine. With the beefsteak that bears his name the great Chateaubriand was able to regain the confidence and friendship of his king, Louis Philippe. It was because he insisted on dining before fighting that Pompey won the final victory over Spartacus. And in that opinion of the importance of dinners, Lucullus and Shakspeare and Owen Meredith concurred. A dinner in the Palais Royale of Paris, timorously organized by the Duke of Wellington, was sufficient to dissuade Blücher from blowing up the bridge of Jena. “I must and will blow it up!” growled old “Vorwärts” over his bisque soup. “I must blow it up!” he said as he finished his ragout. But when he had got to his *parfait au cafe* and his third glass of champagne and was

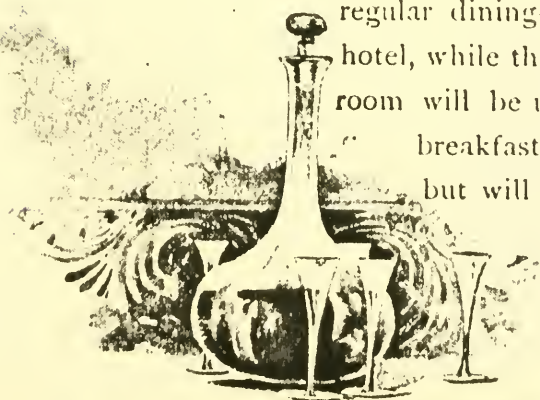
lighting his meerschaum, he convulsively seized the Duke's hand and cried "Mein Gott! never vos such a dinner before. I will not blow up the bridge of Jena!" Dinners so anoint the wheels of life that they are of primary importance.

Since Roessle & Son* opened the Arlington in 1870, it has been a surprising and continuous success, until, to render it adequate for the service required, an enormous addition has been made, giving a frontage of 315 feet on Vermont Avenue, stretching from Lafayette Square to McPherson Square, besides the ample frontage on H and I Streets. Notwithstanding the spaciousness of this addition, only a hundred new rooms have been constructed, but for size and sumptuousness they might all be called "bridal chambers." Each one

* As early as 1849 Mr. Theophilus Roessle opened the Delevan House at Albany, and later associating his son with him established Arlington Hotel at Washington and the Fort William Henry Hotel at Lake George. The firm carried the three houses of entertainment from a humble beginning to a notable success and placed them beyond the reach of rivals, when the son T. E. Roessle, bought all of his father's interests and is now sole proprietor and manager.

is 17 x 22 feet square, and provided with a superb bath-room and a dressing-room with luxurious equipments.

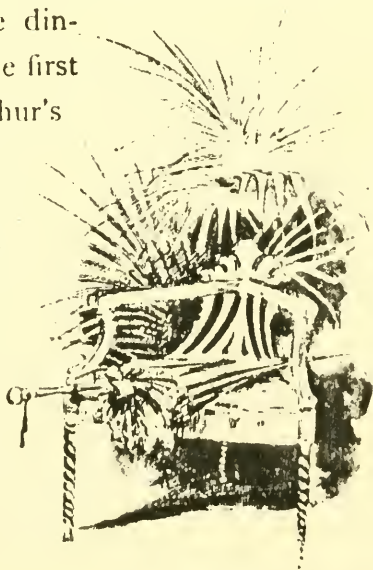
But it is decidedly the parlor floor that gives tone and character to the house. There has never before been any place in Washington entirely suitable for large receptions. The White House has a spacious and stately East Room, but the other parlors are much smaller and stiffer in arrangement than the splendid suit of drawing-rooms just opened at the Arlington. One of these on the Vermont Avenue front is finished in the delicate and beautiful style of Louis Quatorze, and all of them can easily be thrown together in one vast stretch of floor. The old dining-room, doubled in size, will continue to serve as the regular dining-room of the hotel, while the new dining-room will be used for late breakfasts and for tea but will be chiefly in



requisition for receptions, banquets, etc. Some of the parlors, on occasions of exigency, will also be appropriated for the same purpose.

The new part of the hotel is all finished in hard woods, and is furnished with solid elegance, at once esthetically and suitably. Not less than \$400,000 have been expended here this year in order to give the Capital of the country a hotel commensurate with its highest taste and adequate to its largest needs.

The site of this addition, as has been already hinted, is historic. The dining-room of the Johnson house was the private dining-room of the Arlington. The first Cabinet dinner of President Arthur's administration was given here by Postmaster-General James. Secretary Blaine's dinner to the French Centennial visitors to Yorktown was given here, also the Mexican Minister's dinner.

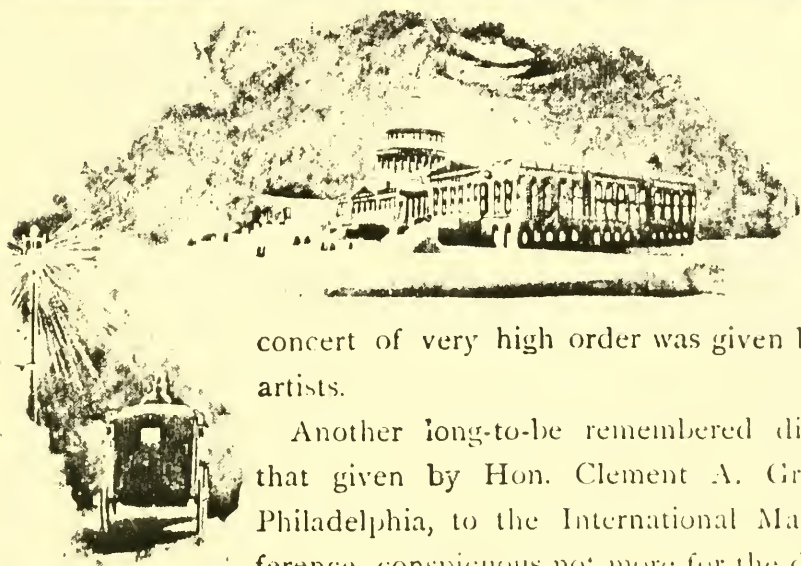


to President Diaz. The banquets given by Hon. Joseph Chamberlain during his official stay at his Capital were so brilliant as to be events in gastronomy, proclaiming the distinguished guest an accomplished disciple of Apicius. His colleagues, the American Commissioners, Hon. W. L. Putnam and Hon. James B. Angell, also dined here epicureally. This first dinner to Mr. Chamberlain being an orchid dinner, in celebration of their guest's well-known floral preference, it was the greatest display of orchids ever made at a dinner.

The Summer House annex is much sought by guests. Here Senator Hiscock makes his permanent home with his family, under the room where Charles Sumner died. Here many distinguished statesmen have lived. Here the dusky queen, Kapiolani, with her dusky suite, abided luxuriously. Here Hon. Charles Hall, M. P., and his famous colleagues representing England in the International Marine Conference, were lodged during their sojourn in Washington, and here they gave notable dinners.

The new addition to the hotel was formally opened by Secretary Blaine's reception to the delegates to the International American Congress, March 29, 1890. The occasion was memorable. All Spanish America was present by proxy. The entire marine band discoursed sweet music. Over a thousand guests were present, and the great parlors showed that they could receive a vast crowd and yet not be crowded. When the feast ended it was remarked that the tables looked as if it was just about to begin.

The banquet given here by Mr. Andrew Carnegie excited great comment on account of its symmetrical completeness. Every zone and every clime was ransacked for luxuries, and the nations of the Orient lent obsequious service in perfecting the menu. It undoubtedly far excelled that feast of Lucullus in his villa at Tusculum, historic among Roman dinners because it cost \$10,000. Over two thousand tulips and crocuses illuminated the board, and during the service a



concert of very high order was given by famous artists.

Another long-to-be remembered dinner was that given by Hon. Clement A. Griscom, of Philadelphia, to the International Marine Conference, conspicuous not more for the delicacy of the cuisine and the art shown in the decorations than for the distinction of the assembled guests. As a fitting close to so memorable a season came, on April 16, the dinner given to President Harrison by the Latin-American delegates. No more distinguished company has ever assembled in Washington at a more beautiful banquet. The table was in the form of an eight-pointed star, and at these points of prominence were seated the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary of State, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and

the Dean of the assembled Delegates. The decorations were a mass of color and fragrance from a skilled artist in flowers. The points of the star were 12 to 20 feet long and radiated from an oval centre, 14 x 18 feet. Down the middle of each table ran a belt of maiden-hair ferns, alternating with baskets of choice roses, lending to the scene a variety of undulating loveliness. In the centre of the colossal star stood a superb palm whose graceful leaves were hung with garlands reminding the hosts of their tropical homes. Beneath the palm was a mound of hundreds of pure white Mabel-Morrison roses, while the points were composed of 500 Jacqueminots imparting to the heart of the star a richness of color and vividness of contrasts seldom attained in such extensive decoration. Each inverted triangle between the points was a miniature garden of maiden-hair ferns, with a cluster of



American beauties in each centre, and a wide border of sycopodium extending entirely around. The two thousand roses were used here, and the 15 boutonniers were a jacque bud and lilies of the valley. Each corner and each window recess of the great banquet hall presented stately groups of palms, ferns, azaleas and hydrangeas, and the walls were hung with gigantic rosettes of palm leaves. The orchestra balcony, in addition to other decorations and emblems, bore three entwined wreaths of laurel, each bearing, in immortelles, the word "America." This interweaving of three Americas was emphasized before huge lover's knot of broad red, white and blue ribbons.

This happy inspiration, expressive of fraternity and good will, originated



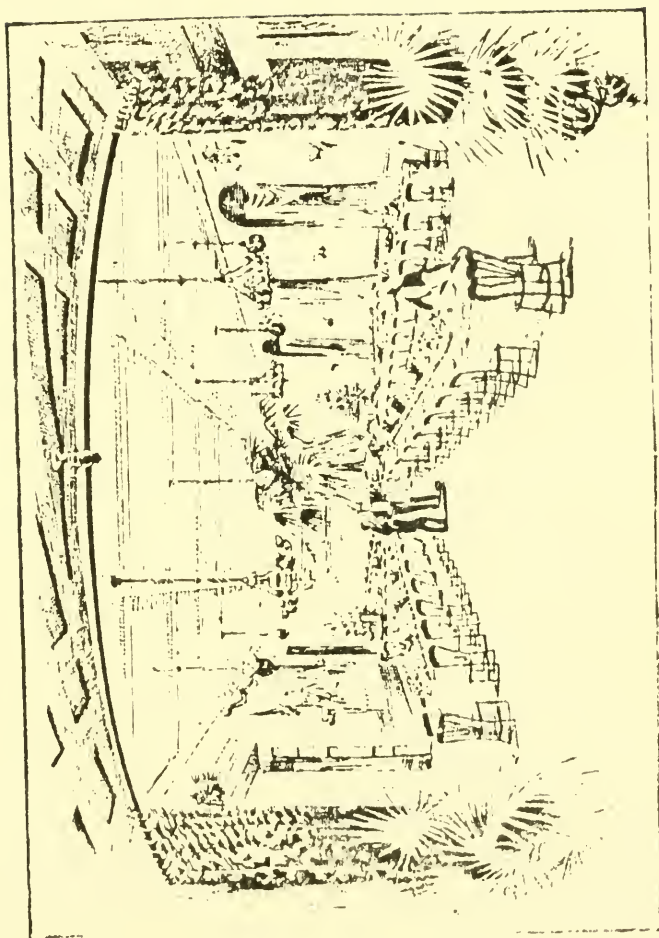
with Mr. Romero, the Mexican minister. The entire dinner was served in less than two hours. The service was on platters a la Russe, and each dish was elaborately ornamented and what is quite as important, hot.

The wedding breakfast and reception attending the nuptials of the Baron Zedwitz, the German Minister to Mexico, and Miss Caldwell, took place in the new Ladies' Parlors, in June. All of the Diplomatic Corps were present, in their court costumes, and made a picturesque tableau, surrounded, as they were, by beautiful flowers, the effect heightened by subdued light. It was at noon, and all of the blinds were closed, excluding anything that might suggest a glare. The Marine band, which played throughout, was stationed in the furthest parlor and entirely hidden from view by a perfect screen of palms decked with blooming plants. It was a charming sight. The entire surroundings, guests, decorations, table, all simply working up to the beautiful picture presented by the Bride and Groom as

they received the congratulations of their friends in a nook or bower composed of flowers. A handsomer couple it would be difficult to find; he in his court uniform and she in her bride's gown. It was the first wedding the "New" Arlington has known. It will live a long time in the recollection of those fortunate enough to have seen it.

The following are copies of the Menus of four of the dinners served during the past winter:





THE BANQUET HALL.

M E N U .

CAVIARE ON TOAST.

BLUE POINTS ON SHELL.

CONSOMME A LA FINANCIERE.

ANCHOVIES. SALTED ALMONDS. OLIVES. RADISHES.

KENNEBEC SALMON A LA REGENCE.

CUCUMBERS. POTATOES GASTRONOME.

CAPONS A LA CHIPOLATA.

DIAMOND-BACK TERRAPIN, ARLINGTON STYLE.

LALLA ROOKH PUNCH.

WOODCOCKS, BARDED, SUR CANAPE.

FRIED HOMINY.

ASPARAGUS, COLD, VINAIGRETTE DRESSING.

BABA AUX RUM, FRUIT SAUCE.

ICE CREAM NAPOLITAINE.

FRUITS COFFEE.

CIGARS.

W I N E S .

CHATEAU YQUEM, 1869, BRANDENBURG FRERES.

IMPERIAL SHERRY,

CHATEAU LA ROSE, 1874, BRANDENBURG FRERES.

LOUIS RODERER, GRAND VIN SEC.

LOUIS RODERER, CARTE BLANCHE.

CHATEAU MARGAUX, 1869, BRANDENBURG FRERES.

LIQUEURS.

The Arlington.
Washington, D. C.

THE LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATION
TO THE PRESIDENT.
April 19, '90.

M E N U .

HÙITRES SUR COQUILLE.

CONSOMMÉ PRINTANIÈRE ROYALE.

ANCHOIS. OLIVE. CELERI. RADIS.

BOUCHÉES À LA REINE.

BASS À LA CHAMBORD.

SALADE DE CONCOMBRE.

POMMES DE TERRE À LA GASTRONOME.

TIMBALE DE RIS DE VEAU À LA PARISIENNE.

SELLE DE CHEVREUIL, SAUCE CHASSEUR.

PUNCH À LA ROMAINE.

FAISANS, LARDÉS, SUR CANAPÉ.

PÂTÉ DE FOI GRAS. SALADE DE CELERI.

CÈPES À LA PROVENÇALE.

CHARLOTTE RUSSE À LA RICHELIEU.

GLACE NAPOLITAINE.

GÂTEAUX ASSORTIS.

FRUITS. FROMAGE. CAFÉ CIGARES.

V I N S .

HAUT BAUTERNE, 1874. BARTON & GUESTIER.

SOLERA SHERRY, 1823

MOET CHANDON, WHITE BEAL.

MOET & CHANDON, IMPERIAL BRUT.

CHATEAU LA ROSE, BARTON & GUESTIER.

CHAMBERTIN.

LIQUEURS.

The Arlington,
Washington, D. C.

THE FRENCH ADMIRAL
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME CONFERENCE.
December 21, 1889.

M E N U .

BLUE POINTS ON SHELL.

CLEAR TURTLE SOUP.

OLIVES. CELERY. SALTED ALMONDS. RADISHES. ANCHOVIES.

FILET OF SOLE, IMPERATRICE.

CAULIFLOWER COLD, FRENCH DRESSING. BERMUDA POTATOES.

CUTLETS OF SPRING CHICKEN A LA PARISIENNE.

ASPARAGUS IN CREAM.

YOUNG LAMB, ROASTED, ARLINGTON STYLE.

PUNCH JARDINIERE.

BLUE WING TEAL DUCKS, ROASTED. CURRANT JELLY.

FRIED HOMINY.

PATE DE FOIE GRAS.

CELERY SALAD WITH TRUFFLES.

CHARLOTTE RUSSE A LA RICHELIEU.

NESSSELRODE PUDDING. GLACE, SAUCE MARASCHINO.

FRUITS.

COFFEE.

CIGARS.

W I N E S .

CHATEAU YQUEM, BARTON & GUESTIER.

TWELVE APOSTLES SHERRY.

CHATEAU LA ROSE, 1874, BARTON & GUESTIER.

G. H. MUMM'S EXTRA DRY.

ROMANEE-CONTI.

LIQUEURS.

The Arlington,
Washington, D. C.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE,
Feb. 25, 1890.

M E N U .

BLUE POINTS ON THE SHELL.

CLEAR TURTLE SOUP.

ANCHOVIES. OLIVES. CELERY. CAVIARE. RADISHES.

TERRAPIN, ARLINGTON STYLE.

POTATOES FITZWILLIAM.

SWEETBREADS À LA POMPADOUR.

FILET OF BEEF À LA FLAMANDE.

PUNCH LALLA ROOKH.

CHESAPEAKE CANVAS-BACK DUCKS.

FRIED HOMINY. _____ CELERY SALAD.

OMELETTE SOUFFLÉ.

TUTTI FRUTTI ICE CREAM.

FANCY CAKES.

FRUITS. CHEESE. COFFEE. CIGARS.

W I N E S .

CHABLIS, BRUNINGHAUS.

CABINET SHERRY.

MONOPOLE, CLUB DRY.

CHATEAU LAFITTE, 1869, BRANDENBERG FRERES.

CLOS DE VOUGEOT, BRUNINGHAUS.

SAM WARD'S.

The Arlington,
Washington, D. C.

MR. C. A. BRISCOM.

December 11, 1889.

WASHINGTONIANA



T. E. ROESSLE, PROPRIETOR.

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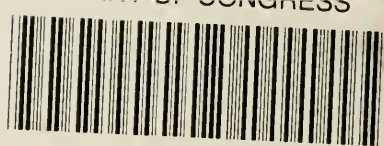


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